



AETC News Clips

Laughlin AFB, Texas



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Re: Proposed development between Del Rio and Laughlin

Editor,

I have noticed at least three past Laughlin commanders have recommended against this development if you are interested in a long-term association with an air base here.

Please keep in mind these retired commanders are not getting paid to voice an opinion, but do so because they care about Del Rio, the USAF and our country, the United States of America.

I was an instructor pilot at both Luke AFB, AZ. and Laughlin AFB and I can assure you that encroachment makes a difference. More than one pilot has lost his life trying to avoid a housing area next to an air force base in an airborne emergency.

I suppose if Laughlin is forced to close some of us retired air force folks will think about moving too.

CLINT HANNA

Del Rio News

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Military Affairs hoping for donations

By Stacy Horany/Times Record News
May 5, 2006, Page 1B

The Sheppard Military Affairs Committee wants you to help keep Sheppard Air Force Base strong.

MAC Chairperson Kay Yeager announced the committee is asking for donations from individuals and businesses at a news conference Thursday afternoon at the Multi-Purpose Events Center.

She said the MAC mission has been buoyed by support from funds from various sources in the last year, almost all governmental. She said 4a/4b sales tax funds from Wichita Falls, Burkburnett and Iowa Park and additional funds from Wichita County have been donated to the Military Affairs Committee.

"We've gotten a lot of support from government entities. Our next challenge is to get support from the private sector," Yeager said.

Barney Fudge, chairman of the Burkburnett Economic Development Corporation and member of the MAC, said businesses need to step up to the plate.

"Many businesses in Burkburnett, Iowa Park and Wichita Falls receive a positive impact from Sheppard, and now its time for them to step up and help out," Fudge said.

Yeager said letters were mailed to various individuals and businesses in the communities of Wichita Falls, Burkburnett and Iowa Park seeking donations to the MAC's ongoing mission: to keep Sheppard alive and well, now and in the future. She said she hopes to see donations begin to come in immediately.

She said the communities and businesses surrounding Sheppard depend upon the base for both economic and cultural growth, and the base is too valuable to the local economy to lose.

"Almost a year ago today, the BRAC recommendations came down, and Sheppard was hit hard. It was a real wake-up call," Yeager said.

A news release issued by MAC said, to date, \$150,000 has been raised by volunteers and the public sector, including \$100,000 from Wichita Falls, \$20,000 from Wichita County, \$15,000 from Burkburnett and \$5,000 from Iowa Park. The committee said they would like to see another \$50,000 in donations raised from individuals and businesses to bring the total up to \$200,000.

Darrell Coleman, publisher of the Times Record News and vice chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, said the government entities have done their part, and now it is time to get the private sector involved.

"The government entities have done their jobs - it's time for us to go to the public," Coleman said.

The press release issued by the Sheppard Military Affairs Committee said the members of the committee are dedicated to forming and staffing a full-time permanent initiative using contributions from local governments and private businesses.

Yeager said the committee hopes to hire a full-time executive director and also to reserve funds to hire consultants of various specialties to help with efforts in Washington.

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